



El Coqui



(A symbol that “old” Charlie had returned and he & Lafayette could remember Mama fondly together.)

“She used to all the time tell me about Bayamon,” I said. “About what it was like there when she was a little girl—how the birds and frogs were always making noises outside her window and everything was green and warm.”

Charlie smiled. It was real tiny but I could see it.

“*El Coqui*,” he whispered. “That was the frog she used to talk about. Remember that song? *El Coqui, el Coqui, el Coqui*.”

He sang a little bit of the Spanish part.



(A symbol for the place and way that Ty'ree witnessed his Daddy risk his life.)

“Ty'ree watched his father break a branch off a tree and hold it out to the woman. But the branch snapped when the woman reached for it.”



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(A symbol for the day prior to when Ty'ree and his brothers' lives changed forever... the day before Mama died)

“I'd left for school already. I'd just graduated the day before, and I was going to pick up my diploma and say good-bye to people” (p 33)



***(A symbol of promises between
Lafayette and Mama.)***

**“I swallowed. And all at once I remembered
. . . I was handing [it] to her because it was
some promise I was making to her.” (p 120)**



(A symbol of the burden each brother carries with him.)

“I can remember the last thing I said to Daddy and you can remember the last thing you said to Mama. Least we got to be there. But not Charlie. I think he carries that around. It’s more like a gorilla...” (p 81)

Bayamón ●



(A symbol of Paradise, according to Mama and her sons)

“Ty’ree said [it] was like what pictures of Paradise looked like---all green and warm and pure” (p 63)



***(A symbol of Charlie & Aaron's
future goals.)***



(A symbol for what Charlie was willing to do to send his family to Paradise.)

“I was gonna get us tickets,” Charlie said. “Take us there.”

“That’s why you robbed that store?”

“Yeah.” (p 125)



(A symbol of who Charlie used to be.)

“Last night, I dreamed about that dog you tried to save, Charlie. You did everything you could. Wasn’t your fault it died, you know. It was like that dog was coming to me in the night trying to tell me that.” (p 123)



***(A symbol of the book's ending/
resolution.)***

**“I saw a picture once in this gallery,”
Ty’ree said. “It was of this man
sitting on a stoop just like we’re
doing now.” (p 130)**



(A symbol of one of the things most valuable to Lafayette in memory of Mama.)

“You wanna burn these too?” (p 125)

. . .

“I touched my back pocket where [they] were and didn’t say anything. I would never sell them. Not for a million dollars.” (p 130)



(A Symbol of Lafayette after Mama's death.)

“Ty’ree was all right after Mama died. But I was all wrong. The year before, I’d seen this show about snakes. They showed this one snake slipping out of its old skin and then leaving that old skin on the ground behind him. That’s how I felt—like Mama’d been my skin. But I hadn’t grown a new skin underneath, like that snake had. I was just blood and bones spreading all over the place.” (p 83)

Blood Z n Crip Z



**Know
Gangs**

(A symbol of “brotherhood”, but not the kind that the Bailey brothers have or want—It’s the kind that Aaron chose.)

**“Charlie’s all right, say he don’t need no colors to be bad. Say he got all his badness inside of him.”
(p 117)**

2005-2006 Cambridge-MIT Undergraduate Exchange Application

Part I: Declaration of Interest

Information for the International Education Office

Deadline: Friday 25th February 2005

Personal Information

First name:	<input type="text"/>
Preferred name:	<input type="text"/>
Surname:	<input type="text"/>
College:	<input type="text"/>
Funding Status	<input type="text" value="Home/EU"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>

Contact Information

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Street 1	<input type="text"/>
Street 2	<input type="text"/>
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Country	<input type="text"/>
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Mobile or Cambridge Telephone Number:	<input type="text"/>

Referral

Name of Referee	<input type="text"/>
Role of Referee	<input type="text"/>

(This information will be sent to the International Education Office at the University of Cambridge, and does not replace the paper forms to be handed to your **Referee**.)

Next step: print out and complete the [forms](#) and submit them with your essay to your referee and then to your Senior Tutor.

Please contact international.education@admin.cam.ac.uk if you have any questions about the application process.

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International Education Office, University Offices, The Old Schools, Trinity Lane, Cambridge CB2 1TT.
Telephone: 01223 332262 E-mail: international.education@admin.cam.ac.uk

(A symbol of Ty'ree's sacrifice for his brothers.)

“Ty'ree had been accepted... I knew that was good because people made all kinds of fusses about the school and about Ty'ree at graduation.” (p 44)



(This is a symbol of Lafayette's world. It represents his struggles with losing Mama and the unspoken dying relationship between him and Newcharlie.)

“I had been dreaming about that stream, about trout jumping up onto the fishing pole Aunt Cecile had given me. In the dream the fish wiggled and wiggled, their rainbow scales flickering in the sun . . . Newcharlie knocked the pail out of my hand and the fish lay on the ground between us, its eyes wide and glassy.”



(A symbol of just how much the boys were struggling, financially)

“He needed a haircut, so his hair kind of fell toward his forehead a little. I looked down at his sneakers. They were old and dirty-looking. He’d bought them before Mama died. They were Adidas but the kind nobody wore anymore. I moved a little bit closer to him, wondering if people could tell we were poor.”



(A symbol of the place Lafayette thought had taken “old” Charlie, and created NewCharlie)

“Since he’d gotten home from Rahway Home for Boys a few months ago, he never talked to me.” (p 2)



(A symbol of what each brother needed from their guilt & burdens in order to be happy and united together again.)

“The function of freedom,” Mama read, ***“is to free someone else”*** (p 109)



(A symbol of a stereotype)

“Not all Chinese people know karate,” he said. (p 9)

(nothing)

(A symbol for how each of the 3 boys felt at one time or another after their parents' deaths)

“Any other members?”

I shook my head.

“How does that make you feel?” Dr. Vernon asked.

I shrugged again. “Like nothing.”

“You feel like you’re nothing, Lafayette?”

“No. I know I’m something. I’m just saying that not having a mama and daddy don’t feel like nothing. It’s just the way things are.” (p 85)



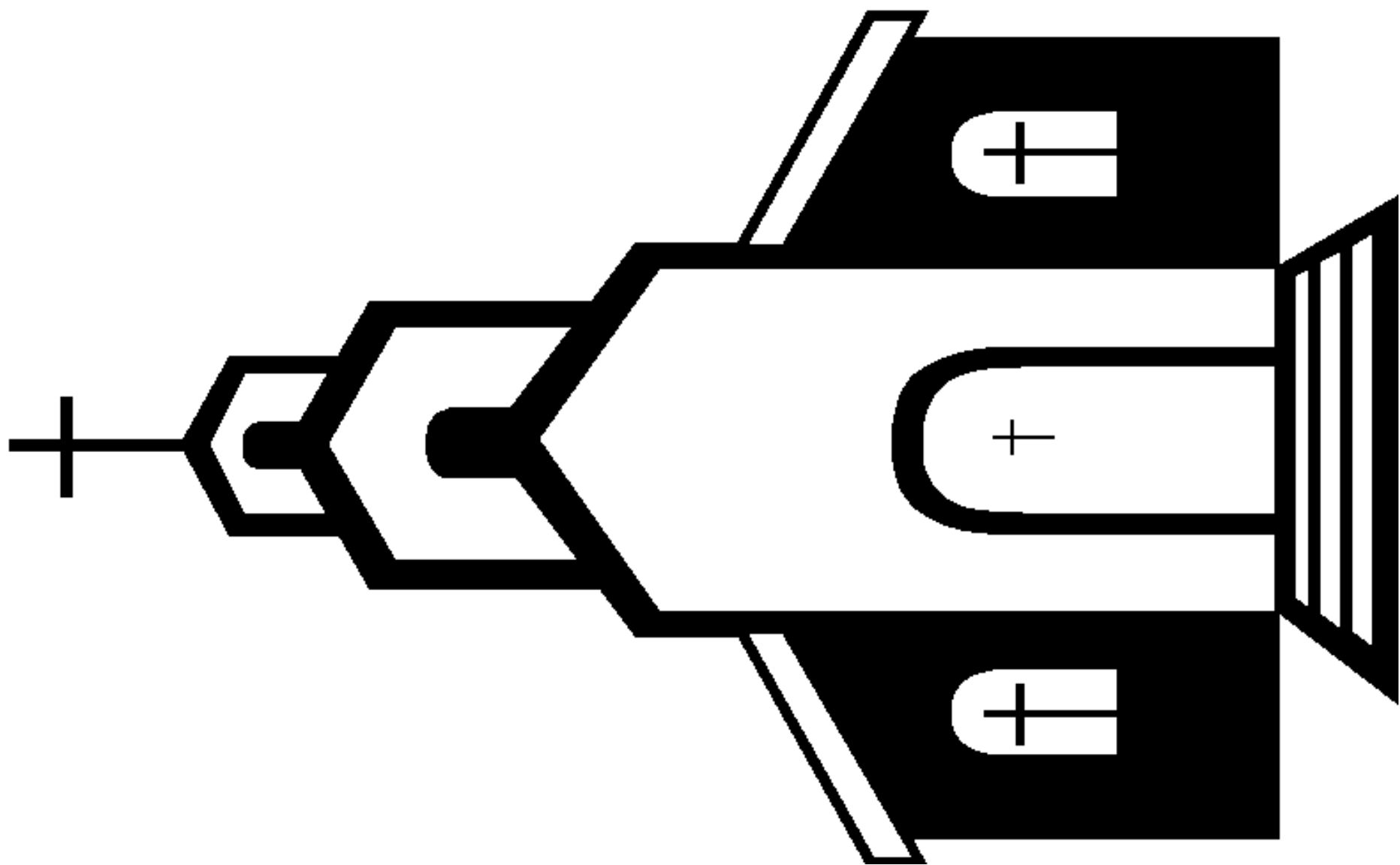
***(A symbol of how some of the
boys might remember Mama)***

**“How come you didn’t save her,
huh?”**



***(A symbol [image] of something
that may forever haunt Ty'ree)***

“There was a woman in a pink running outfit jogging around the lake. She had a big dog with her, and the dog was running right beside her.” (p 74)



***(A symbol of a place that is hard
for Lafayette to go to anymore.)***

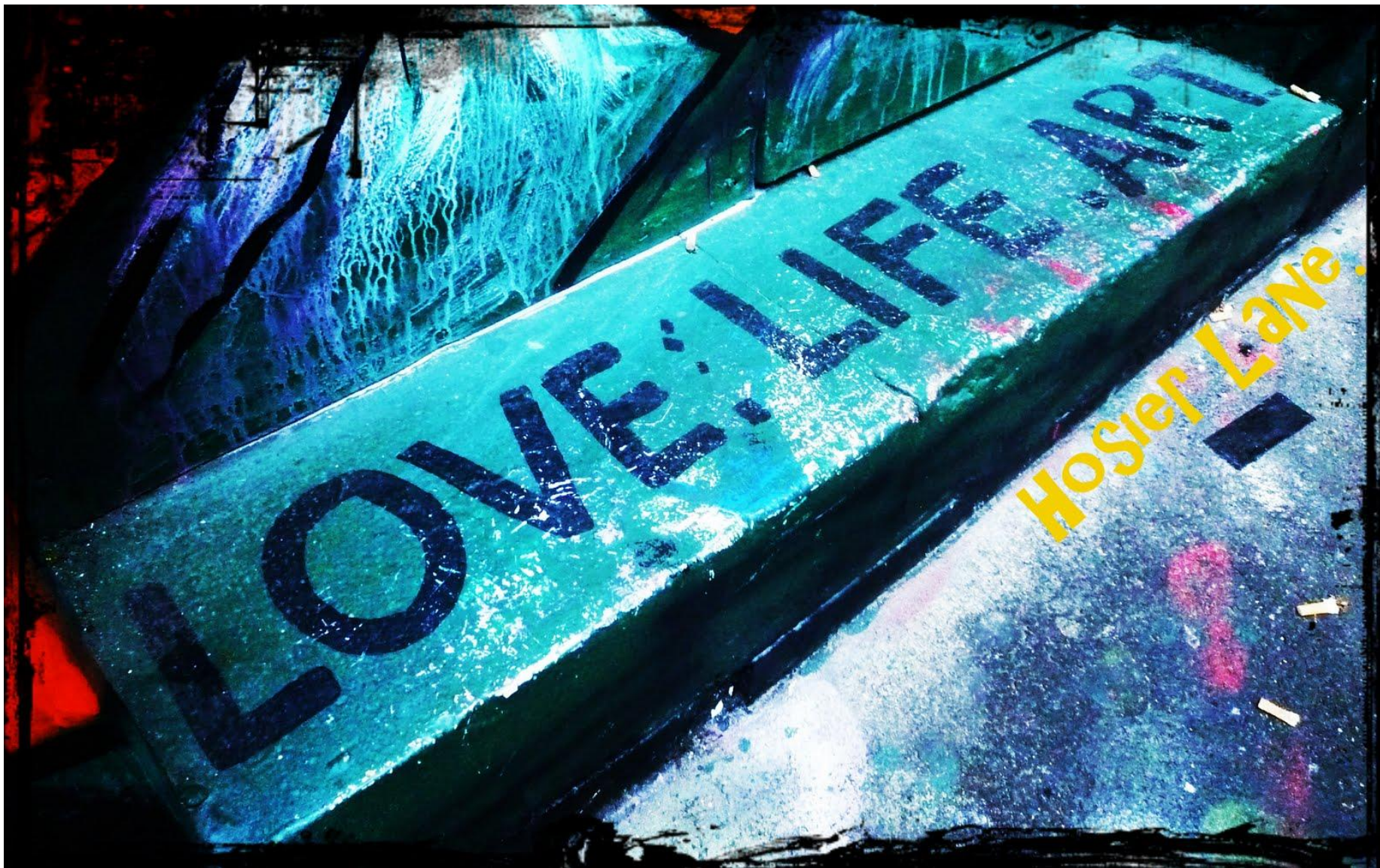
**“The last time any of us was in a church
was for Mama’s funeral. I didn’t want to
see the inside of one again for a long
time. Least till the thought of even
passing by one isn’t enough to make me
choke up and start bawling about Mama.”
(p 6)**

St. Francis
CARE



(A symbol of faith.)

“Once he told me that some nights he lay in bed just praying for all the stray animals out there.” (p 4)



**“Sometimes I feel like our life is
one big work of art—it’s
everything . . . And nothing.” (p
129)**



(A symbol of the doctor who helped Lafayette.)

“You can go now, Lafayette.”

But I didn't want to go. I liked the way it felt to have Dr. Vernon patting my shoulder. I liked how deep and soft his voice was. So I came back. Every Wednesday for a whole year.” (p 86)